

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Keep the pigs growing.

Chicks must have fresh water.

Never expect to work miracles with the cow.

Chicken wire makes a good trellis for tomatoes.

The greatest damage to soil is usually done after harvest.

Grind the corn you feed the old sheep. Their teeth may be poor.

Young chicks still with the hens thrive better on a variety of foods.

The disk is the tool to prepare the corn stubble for the small grain.

Horses enjoy a good drink, but they don't have to go to town to get it.

Never throw fruit of any kind into a basket or box. Lay it in gently.

The production of a cow above a certain standard constitutes the profit.

Manure, sod and lime are three best ways of increasing the humus in the soil.

Keep the hedges clipped. Buckthorn is one of the easiest hedges handled.

There is hardly a limit to the resources of the rat to exterminate chicks.

Sheep suffer the least from a deficiency of drinking water, and horses and cattle the most.

It is well worth while to exert every energy possible to keep your present supply of live stock.

When the pigs' tails begin to hang down straight it is time to get out the worm medicine.

A good cold bred for a purpose, and fed and trained for a purpose, is never a drug on the market.

Spray pumps and spray materials are now the main topic of conversation among fruit growers.

The best use of stable manure is to haul it out as fast as made and spread it broadcast over sod ground.

The present shortage of forage crops should emphasize the necessity for a reserve supply in silos.

More small hogs have probably been marketed in the last two years than ever before during the same time.

For the protection of dairy stock, as well as for live stock generally, windbreaks and tree shelter are invaluable.

A little salt sprinkled with coal ashes is as much relished by the hogs as "Cracker Jack" is relished by the boys.

The first step in better cream quality in hot weather is to separate the milk immediately, as soon as it is milked.

Keep the new strawberry bed clean cultivated until the runners are matted too much to permit the cultivator to go through.

Those farmers who kept up their cultivation of the soil not only kept the corn over the dry spell but increased the yield.

The wild high-bush cranberry, common in many marshy districts, is good, both as an ornament on the lawn and for making jelly.

The right time to castrate pigs is a week or so before they are weaned, if healthy; if delicate, wait a week or so until they are stronger.

All milk cans should be washed first in cold water, then thoroughly cleansed with warm water, and finally rinsed in scalding hot water.

We cannot expect even the best pure-bred to produce animals without a blemish every time. It is always a case of the survival of the fittest.

An excellent plan in providing against shortage of pasture is to grow each year some of the supplementary crops, such as rye, millet, cow peas, rape or sorghum, to be used during the dry season.

After some summer rain you will find your hogs wallowing in some puddle and enjoying it. Then is the time to have crude oil on hand and pour a pailful in the wallow. It will float on top and kill the lice on the hogs. This is cheap and easy warm weather way of dipping.

Provide the hogs with a wallow.

The cement silo is growing steadily in favor.

The A-shaped pig pen is too hot for summer.

Many weeds interfere with the rotation of crops.

Silage may be cut in almost any size desired.

Watch the swill barrel. Keep it sweet and clean.

Hogs thrive much better on a ration rich in nitrogen.

There are a few who save some of their own seed from the garden.

Hogs enjoy a tank of clean water to bathe in during the hot days.

Never allow roses to remain on the bush until the petals begin to fall.

The common and cut-leaf elders have proved good lawn plants this year.

One of the best foods for growing chickens is the curd from skimmed milk.

A majority of poorly formed draft horses have shoulders which are too steep.

Get a good variety of Lima and bush beans and save the first to ripen.

Too many farmers have failed to appreciate the possibilities of rye as hog pasture.

Second crop alfalfa is fine for the pig, but if pastured very closely it will soon run out.

A straw-colored open shed for the stock is a much needed thing on the treeless farm.

Rotted manure should be spread on the plowed ground and well worked in with the harrow.

Even if we can not get fancy prices for our horses, there are good profits in growing colts.

A good sized horse has a wider field of usefulness than a small one, and is worth more accordingly.

Uniformity in the size of a bunch of hogs has a great deal to do with the price they will bring.

If you have your hogs on sour milk, keep them there. To change to sweet may upset their digestion.

The large farm is more profitable than the small farm if managers of the proper ability can be had.

There is no feed better for young pigs and calves than sweet skim milk right from the separator.

If a poultryman or a farmer does not take an interest in poultry, he had better not keep any at all.

Keep the sweet peas picked. It is better for the plants and the house can be made more attractive by their use.

Save seeds of trees and shrubs, as they ripen, and plant them. This is one way to multiply your ornamental plants.

Many people recognize the value of a pure bred sire but comparatively few stop to think just how valuable he is.

The sow should be given a warm mill-feed slop, made fresh for each meal, whole oats and a little sound corn twice a day.

Weed out the inferior birds, whether as to size, form or quality, at the earliest possible moment, feeding the two lots separately.

A large per cent. of poultry, especially young chicks, die through drinking from puddles and dirty water in their drinking troughs.

Every enclosure for the hogs should be perfectly tight, and with excellent wire fences that are now manufactured this is an easy matter.

It makes some horses ugly to work them with horses that do not travel up with them. Match them as to gait as well as to other things.

Supply clear water. It is essential to health and to the hen for the production of the egg, the contents of which are nearly three parts water.

If sows are carelessly fed during pregnancy, trouble of some kind is sure to follow at farrowing; if over fed after farrowing, losses may occur among the pigs from scours and thumps.

Keep in mind that if your silo is partly filled with Indian corn or any other one crop, you can later finish filling it with any other crop or crops which you may grow, and in this manner get your silo full.

No up-to-date farmer will be without a hand separator, and the skim milk, when improved in quality by the addition of some concentrated food, is solving the problem of raising good dairy stock on the farm. In addition to turning every ounce of fat in the milk into butter.

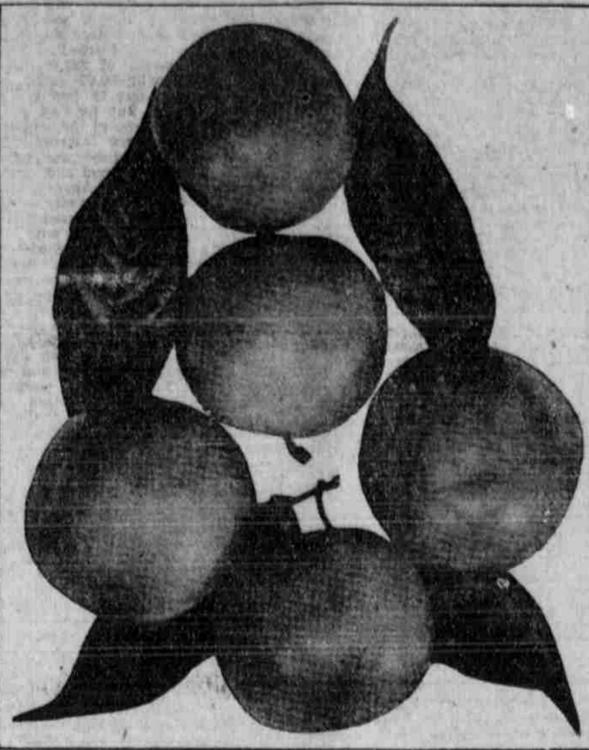
The accompanying illustration shows a cheap and handy method of hoisting and storing the wagon box from the wagon. The construction is self-explanatory, the position of posts and other details being varied to suit conditions.

The chief advantages of this plan are that it can be operated by one person, can be put in at a small cost,

and it carries the box up where it will be out of the way, and yet ready to be lowered at any time. The board slings at the sides of the box when elevated, serve to hold the wagon box in place, and take the weight off the ropes. The writer, says the Ohio Farmer, has used this device for many years, and has found it entirely satisfactory.

PROPAGATION OF THE PLUM BY BUDDING OR GRAFTING

In General Practice Former is More Successful, Work Being Done at Close of Active Growing Period—Under Average Conditions Spring is Best Time For Planting.



The Golden Variety.

(By E. E. LITTLE, Iowa Agricultural College Experiment Station.)

The plum may be propagated either by budding or by root grafting. In general practice the former is the more successful, the work being done at the close of the active growing period. The Marianna and the Myrobalan plums, and the peach, are often used in southern and eastern nurseries for plum stocks. These are not recommended for use in Iowa, because they lack hardiness. In top grafting the plum, it is important that the stock and the scion belong to the same or a closely related species. If this is not the case the union is apt to be unsatisfactory, and the tree becomes poorly developed and is short-lived. For the American varieties, stocks of the native species should be used. Miner is highly recommended as a stock for the American plums by some of our Iowa growers.

The Americana plum abounds throughout the prairie regions and does well on black prairie soil, as well as on heavy clay soils along streams. So long as the drainage is reasonably good, this type of plum does well on a wide range of soils.

Under average conditions, spring is the best time for planting plum trees. In exceptional seasons with a favorable moisture supply, fall planting may be done with success, providing the work is done early so that the trees may become reestablished before winter sets in. Often, however, the moisture supply in the fall is an uncertain quantity, and if the ground is at all dry the tree which has been recently disturbed is likely to suffer severely during the winter.

The distance apart to plant depends somewhat on the variety and also on the type of soil. Generally 18 to 20 feet apart gives ample room.

The plum naturally produces a thick, dense growth, eventually resulting in an excess of fruit spurs and a heavily-shaded top. Under such conditions the fruit is liable to be poorly colored, and the dense shade tends to

maintain a damp atmosphere which encourages the development of plum fruit rot. Sufficient pruning should be done to correct this tendency. Any cross branches should be removed.

As fruited at this station and elsewhere in the state Golden is an attractive, golden yellow plum, rather large for its class, being about the size of Burbank. It is one of the few varieties having Japanese blood, which appears to be well enough adapted to Iowa conditions to merit further testing. Tree vigorous, comparatively hardy and rather productive. The fruit is sometimes badly injured by fruit rot.

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BEST WAY OF FEEDING GRIT

Hens are Best Judges of What They Need and Should be Allowed to Help Themselves.

(By ROBERT S. GRAY.)

A woman of western Pennsylvania says that many of her young laying hens died last winter and she attributes the trouble to mixing grit with the feed as she had been told to do.

There is some difference of opinion as to feeding grit. It is true that when hens on a range pick up their feed they always get with it a considerable amount of grit, but we doubt whether it is wise to force grit upon them when in confinement.

If grit is provided in boxes, the hens will usually use as much as is necessary for their health, and it appears to us that this is the natural way of taking grit.

It might be well to mix grit with the feed if we knew exactly how much would be needed for the health of the birds; but as they are the best judges of this matter we think it much better to provide grit in boxes and allow them to help themselves.

QUALITY AND CONFORMATION OF TYPICAL DRAFT HORSES

Ideal Animal Will Show Vigorous, Lively, Energetic Disposition, Yet be Docile, Tractable and Intelligent—Form Should be Broad, Deep and Evenly Proportioned.

(By A. S. ALEXANDER.)

The typical, ideal draft horse stands over 16 hands (5 feet 4 inches) and under 18 hands high, and weighs 1,600 pounds or more in ordinary flesh.

The form should be broad, deep, massive, evenly proportioned, and symmetrical, the entire make-up suggesting great strength and weight. The body should be massive, blocky, and compact, and squarely set on short, broad, clean, sturdy legs showing fine skin, large joints and prominent tendons.

The head should be large, proportionate in size to the body, well formed, clean and free from coarseness and irregularities. The forehead should be broad, full and not dish-shaped or too prominent. The profile of the face should not be too straight or of "Roman-nose" form. There should be good width and fullness between the eyes, indicating power and intelli-



Correct and Incorrect Types of Pasterns and Feet; a, Pastern Too Straight and Upright; b, Pastern Too Sloping; c, Correct Type of Forefoot; d, Correct type of Hind Foot.

gence. The eyes should be bright, clear, mild, full, sound and of the same color. The lids should be smooth, well arched, and free from angularities and wrinkles. The ears should be of medium size, well placed, alert, normally active, and free from coarseness. The nostrils should be large and flexible; the lips thin, even, and firm, and all of the parts neat and clean cut. The skin and hair of the muzzle should be of good quality.

There should be a wide space between the lower jaws free from meatiness, abscesses, or tumors. The neck should be of a size proportionate to the rest of the body, well arched, evenly muscled, with large windpipe and smooth insertion into the shoulder. It should not curve downward (ewe neck) or be broken in crest.

The shoulder should be moderately sloping, smooth and extending well back.

The arm, which extends from the point of the shoulder to the elbow, should be short, heavily muscled and well thrown back. The forearm, extending from the elbow to the knee, should be long, flat, wide, heavily muscled, and free from coarseness. The knees should be straight, wide, deep, strongly formed, and smooth.

The cannons, extending from the knees to the fetlocks, and composed chiefly of bones and tendons, should be short, strong, clean and wide, with prominent and smooth tendons. The fetlocks should be wide, straight, strong, and free from puffs, callouses, or interfering sores. The pasterns, extending from the fetlocks to the hoof heads, should be moderately sloping, strong and clean.

The tendency in the average draft horse is toward short, upright pasterns and stubby gait. This is highly objectionable as are also very long, weak pasterns, which bring the back of the fetlocks too close to the ground. The latter cause strain upon the tendons when drawing heavy loads. The short upright pasterns are even more objectionable since they prevent springy, elastic action of the feet and allow concussion to jar the bony columns of the legs. The irritation and inflammation induced by continued jarring

often results in sidebones, ringbones, corns and kindred diseases. The bone of the pastern should have a slope of about 45 degrees and the front of the foot 50 degrees. Horses having upright pasterns and consequent stubby action wear out quickly when used upon paved streets.

The hoofs should be ample in size, sound, smooth and symmetrical in shape.

The chest, inclosing the heart and lungs, should be roomy in every respect. "An ample, wide, deep chest denotes vigor, power, strong constitution and easy keeping qualities." The ribs form the "barrel" and should be deep, well sprung and carried low at the flanks and close to the hips. The back, extending from the rear of the withers to the last rib, should be broad, straight and muscular. In general appearance it should denote great strength and compactness. The loins should be short, wide, deep and strong. The underline should run back full and low from the floor of the chest.

The upper part of the hind quarter should show great development of wide, thick, smooth muscle without angularities and coarseness. The croup, the part of the hind quarter from top of the hip to the insertion of the tail, should show comparative levelness, ample muscle and great strength.

The most notable deficiency of this part in draft horses is excessive droop, or steepness and shortness, with weakness of muscle. Such conformation tends to slouchiness in gait and often is associated with "sickle" hocks. The draft croup should be smooth, of fair length, and neither too steep nor perfectly level.

The thighs from the hips down to the stifles should be strong, muscular, wide and long.

The gaskins, or lower thighs, correspond to the forearms, and should have the same qualities; the muscles should be large, prominent in front of

the bone, and carried well downward. The hocks are most important joints because the great strain of starting and hauling a load falls upon them, and they will soon break down if not very strong and perfectly sound. The joints should be large, clean, sharply defined, wide, deep and well set.

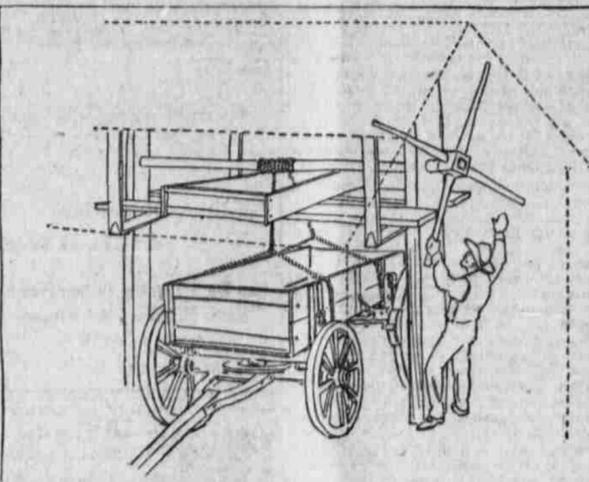
Forage for Sheep. Every flock owner should give special attention to providing the best of supplemental forage and pasture for his sheep to help out the other pasture and supply the flock with a change of feed.

Every sheep feeder should awaken to his opportunities and put a stop to selling his lambs in a poor condition.

The comparatively small expense of maintaining a breeding flock and fattening wethers is distinctly attractive to the trained business mind.

A ewe showing too much masculininity and a ram showing too much femininity are to be avoided for such animals are apt to produce progeny that are not uniform.

WAY OF STORING WAGON BOX



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SHEARING SHEEP IN OLD WAY



Machine clippers are rapidly taking the place of hand shears, as they do the work more quickly and with less laceration of the animal's skin.

On the large sheep ranches of the west a number of sheep-shearing machines are run from a shaft propelled by an electric motor or gasoline engine. Smaller machines are also made

which can be turned by hand and with the aid of one of these, two men can do as much work in a day as six in the old-fashioned way.

Dairy Farming in Arkansas. Dairy farming in Arkansas is attracting wide attention and is growing very rapidly.